CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An illuminated retractable leash, comprising:

a housing having a grip portion;

a spring-based spool rotatably supported in said housing;

an extendible roll of electroluminescent wire wound around the spool, the wire having a free end adapted for attachment to a pet collar; and

a DC to AC power inverter, the electric output thereof selectively connected to one end of the electroluminescent wire.

2. The illuminated retractable leash according to claim 1, further comprising a DC input jack.

3. The illuminated retractable leash according to claim 1, further comprising a stop mechanism for engaging said spool and for blocking the extension or winding up of said electroluminescent wire about said spool.

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4. The illuminated retractable leash according to claim 1, further comprising a printed circuit board disposed in said housing, said DC to AC power inverter mounted thereon.

5. The illuminated retractable leash according to claim 4, wherein said printed circuit board is centrally mounted to a lateral surface of said spool, whereby said printed circuit board rotates in conjunction with said spool.

6. The illuminated retractable leash according to claim 1, further comprising a battery holder capable of holding at least one battery, said battery holder having electrical leads selectively connected to said inverter.

7. The illuminated retractable leash according to claim 6, wherein said battery holder is disposed on said printed circuit board.

8. The illuminated retractable leash according to claim 1, wherein said spool is transparent and at least part of said housing is transparent.

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9. The illuminated retractable leash according to claim 1, further comprising a switch electrically connected to said inverter operative to apply power to said electroluminescent wire.

10. An illuminated retractable leash comprising;

a housing;

a spring-biased spool rotatably supported in said housing;

an extendible roll of electroluminescent wire wound around said spool, the wire having a free end adapted for attachment to a pet collar;

a stop mechanism for engaging said spool and for blocking the extension or winding up of the electroluminescent wire about said spool;

a printed circuit board centrally mounted to a lateral surface of said spool, whereby said printed circuit board rotates in conjunction with said spool; and

a DC to AC inverter, the electric output thereof selectively connected to an end of the electro-luminescent wire.

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11. The illuminated retractable leash according to claim 10, further comprising a battery holder mounted to said printed circuit board, said battery holder having electrical leads selectively supplying power to said inverter.

12. The illuminated retractable leash according to claim 10, wherein said spool and at least part of said housing is transparent.

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13. An illuminated retractable leash comprising;

a housing having a grip portion;

a spring-biased spool rotatably supported in said housing, said spool having a pair of electrically conducting surfaces concentrically disposed on a lateral surface of said spool;

an extendible roll of electroluminescent wire wound around said spool, said electroluminescent wire having at least two conductors, said conductors electrically connected to said pair of concentrically disposed conducting surfaces, said wire further having a free end adapted for attachment to a pet collar;

a retractor mechanism whereby slack section of said wire can be taken up automatically by said spring-based spool when the maximum extension length of said wire is not being used;

a pair of electric contacts mounted to said housing and positioned to make continuous electric contact with said pair of concentrically disposed conducting surfaces as the spool rotates;

a printed circuit board disposed in said housing, said printed circuit board having a DC to AC power inverter, the

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electric output thereof connected to said pair of housing mounted electric contacts; and

a battery holder disposed in said housing, said battery holder having electrical leads selectively supplying power to said inverter.

14. The illuminated retractable leash according to claim 13, wherein said spool is transparent and at least part of said housing is transparent.

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